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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED



COR-0915

Copy 7 of 4

31 AUG 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, DPD

SUBJECT : Request for Access To Key Hole Material

1. Request the following individuals be granted access to available Key Hole material:

a.  Chief, Weather Section, DPD/OPS.

b. Lt. Colonel John J. Allen, Chief, Special Projects Division, Global Weather Central, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

2. Since camera on/off decisions on future CORONA operations will be based to a large extent upon cloud cover forecasts, it is essential that the meteorologists who prepare the forecasts, and those who interpret them for the decision-making authority, be completely familiar with the effects of various cloud types and amounts upon the photographic product.  reports from CORONA 9009 indicate wide discrepancies between the cloud cover as interpreted from the pictures and that obtained from USSR weather reports. These differences are presumably due to two factors. First, some cirrus clouds are relatively transparent when viewed from above with the sun at a high elevation angle. Second, low level clouds with vertical development (cumulus) obscure a large part of the sky when viewed from the ground but often obscure only a small part of the ground when viewed from extremely high altitudes. These two effects have never been properly evaluated. A thorough study of the effects of various types and amounts of cloud upon the CORONA photographic product would enable the meteorologists to interpret weather observations made from the ground, in term of those effects. This in turn would enable them to prepare forecasts in terms of ground obscuration rather than in terms of sky obscuration as at present.

3. It would be gross negligence not to attempt to learn as much as possible about this problem before beginning an operation with a multiple-day orbiting satellite. It is highly desirable that a preliminary evaluation be completed prior to 10 September 1960, so that any new procedures suggested by the information obtained may be given a dry run during the next CORONA CPX.

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4. The two individuals named above will be most directly concerned with weather factors on future operations and should therefore personally investigate all aspects of the weather problem. They should have access to the Key Hole material as soon as feasible after 5 September when the necessary cloud data becomes available. It is pointed out that both of these officers have had a CORONA clearance almost since the inception of the program. The need for review of this material is strictly from a weather standpoint as it relates to the refinement of the science of forecasting. As the program becomes more selective in terms of control of each pass, the better the forecast, the greater intelligence return.

5. It is therefore recommended that Lt. Colonel Allen and [redacted] be granted access to Key Hole material for the purpose as stated above.



Chief, Operations Branch, DPD-DD/P

CONCUR:



STANLEY W. BEERLI  
Colonel USAF  
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

DPD/OPS/WX [redacted] 11k (30 August 1960)

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